

Didur Scores Big Success As Hero in 'Boris Godunoff'

Moussorgsky's Russian Opera, Sung in Italian, Wins Favor From a Crowded First Night Audience—Principal Charm of the Work Lies in the Beautiful Choruses, Admirably Sung, Thanks to Mr. Setti.

BY SYLVESTER RAWLING.

"BORIS GODUNOFF," a Russian opera based upon a historical novel by Pushkin, was presented for the first time in America at the Metropolitan Opera House last night. It was sung in Italian. There was a crowded audience to hear it, which showed every outward sign of enjoying it in the highest degree. But American first night audiences are proverbially generous. It does not follow that, because of last night's acclamation, the opera will prove so much of a success that it will remain permanently in the repertory. A clever woman remarked to me, "How many of these people, applauding so rapturously, will come to hear the work again?" That will be the test. For my own part I must record that it is a work of striking originality with an appeal that is profoundly moving. The wonder is that it has not been disclosed to us before.

STORY TOLD IN EPISODIC THREE ACTS OF EIGHT SCENES.

The opera is in three acts, divided into eight scenes. Its development is episodic. A series of stage pictures tell the story in a disconnected manner. It is in brief that Boris, who has been regent under the impetuous son of Ivan the Terrible, when the latter dies, murders the tsar's son, Dmitri, and assumes the throne. Long after, when Boris is torn by remorse, a young monk, Gregory, hears of the crime from an elder monk, and, learning that he was of the same name as the murdered Dmitri, declares himself to be Dmitri and starts a revolution. Except for a few effective pictures, even this has little to do with the psychology of Boris. The end comes when Boris, told of the uprising of Dmitri, dies of apoplexy or something like it while conscience-stricken. Boris's son, Theodore, has little to do, and his daughter Xenia, still less. Marina, the daughter of a Polish noble, is drawn in merely to make a love scene with Dmitri. The other characters, many of them interesting in themselves, have only a remote connection with the main argument.

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tenor—he is only twenty-three years old—a native of New York who has not been trained abroad, but here, by Oscar Schaner, a voice strong and flexible, a presence attractive and a confidence remarkable. Mr. Toscanini, it was said, had taken special pains to coach him for the part. At any rate, Mr. Altissimo made a hit. Much may be expected of him.

LOUISE HOMER DANCES CHARMINGLY IN A CAROLINE.

Louise Homer hadn't much to do as Marina, the sweetheart of Dmitri, but in her caroline she was a lovely picture, and in the dance in the garden of her father's castle she was not only the most attractive but not the least expert. Her part in the duet was sung delightfully. Anna Case, as Theodore, Boris's son and heir, in her big boots made a fine-looking boy, and she sang and acted well. Lenora Sparks, as Xenia, Boris's lovely daughter, sung with unaccustomed power as well as beauty. Jeanne Maubourg, an accomplished actress that she is, made the most of her part as the Inn Keeper. Maria Duchene was effective as the Nurse.

Do, dekurula, as Varlaan, the hard-drinking monk with his wife about him, did a capital bit of characterization.

He deserved all the laughs he got. Boris had little opportunity as the Simpliciot, but he took advantage of it to score. Rotinier was excellent as Pimen, the recording monk and the final striker of the conscience of the czar. Rossi was a confident police agent. In the cast were Reschiglian, Audisio, Mariani and Kiedler.

Mr. Toscanini, who conducted, had labored long and earnestly to give the production the charm and grace and effectiveness that it possessed. He was persuaded—an unusual thing for him—to accept a curtain call. Mr. Didur, for whom the calls were as fervid as they were numerous, had the grace to make Mr. Setti share the first one with him. Mr. Setti well deserved the compliment.

FALLS 900 FEET INTO LAKE.

Italian Aviator Meets Death Near Milan—Body Not Found.

LUGANO, March 20.—While Primaves, an aviator, was flying from Milan late yesterday he fell 900 feet into Lake Lugano. His body has not been recovered.

The lake is very deep and the body is probably entangled in some wreckage. Primaves belonged to Lugano.

Dean Lewis for Governor. PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—Dean William Draper Lewis of the University of Pennsylvania law school is the Progressive party candidate to succeed John K. Tener as Governor of Pennsylvania. He was chosen as candidate by Col. Roosevelt on a recent visit here.

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Little Children's Hats—milk straw and soft brim—ribbons, bows and velvet trim—to 5 years—reg. \$2.00. 2.00

Babies' White Coats—all wool batiste—circular collar—hand em'd lace and silk head trim—to 3 years—reg. \$2.00. 2.95

Babies' Ribbed Shirts—Spring weight—suits to 3 years—val. \$1.00. 1.10

Babies' Sweater Suits—white or combination—reg. \$1.25. 1.05

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Boys' Union Suits—fine white cotton—high neck—sleeves—also knee length—mill imperfections—therefore 40 ct. quality. 2.25

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Men's Medium Weight Underwear—gray only—celebrated "Health" shirts and drawers—reg. \$1.00. 3.00

Women's Swiss Rib Vests—fine cotton—low neck—sleeves—plain top or lace trim—yoke. 1.10

Women's Silk and Lace Vests—high neck—long sleeves—also knee length—drawers—reg. \$1.00. 4.00

Children's Stockings—Girls' light and med. weight—Boys' heavy corduroy rib—dribble socks—fast black. 1.10

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